



OCTOBER 2006

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Other noted speakers included U.S. Senate Majority Leader William H. Frist, M.D. (TN), U.S. Senators John Sununu (NH), John Thune (SD), Lisa Murkowski (AK), and Lamar Alexander (TN). The opening reception featured the attendance of 16 U.S. Senators who welcomed their constituents to the issue conference.

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Thank you for your leadership and participation.

Sincerely,

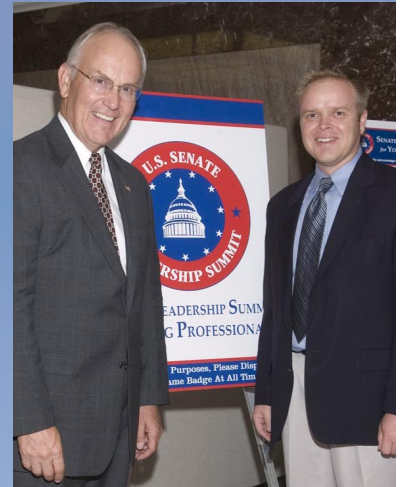
U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Summit Chair

U.S. Senate Acts on Security Agenda and Other Important Legislation

In the days following the Summit, the U.S. Senate approved legislation to address several priority issues, including homeland and border security. Congress will return November 13 to complete its legislative session. Below is an update on key policy issues:

WAR ON TERROR

- To ensure that a critical component of our national security efforts can continue, the U.S. Senate approved **S. 3930, the Military Commissions Act**, which the President signed on October 17, 2006. It protects America by continuing the terrorist interrogation program and new tribunals that bring terrorists to justice through full and fair military trials. It preserves the intelligence programs that disrupt terrorist plots, protect U.S. troops, and save U.S. lives.
- On September 29-30, 2006, the U.S. Senate passed the final versions of the **FY 2007 Defense Appropriations** bill and the **Defense Authorization** bill, which have both been enacted to ensure U.S. troops have the resources, training, technology, and equipment to win the War on Terror.
- The U.S. Senate approved **H.R. 6198, the Iran Freedom Support Act**, to extend for another five years the provisions of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA), which will ensure that ILSA continues to impede Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons.



U.S. Senator Larry Craig (ID) talks with Idaho participant Dale Dixon at the Welcome Reception.



U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) visits with Amanda Siruta and Shawn Lindsey at the Welcome Reception.

HOMELAND/BORDER SECURITY

- On September 30, 2006, the U.S. Senate approved a House-passed bill, **H.R. 6061, the Secure Fence Act**, to help achieve total operational control of U.S. borders by defending our border with Mexico either by fence or electronic surveillance.
- To improve port security, the U.S. Senate approved the conference report to **H.R. 4954, the Safe Port Act**, which the President signed on October 13, 2006. It strengthens cargo security programs, improves security training for port workers, and institutes protocols for reopening ports after a terrorist attack.
- Building on a national security agenda, Congress approved the **FY 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations** package which the President signed on October 4, 2006.

It provides \$34.8 billion in funds to strengthen security along U.S. borders, ports, chemical plants, and transit systems, and revamps the nation's disaster response. To combat illegal immigration, it will add 1,500 new border patrol agents and provide \$1.2 billion for border fencing, vehicle barriers, technology, and infrastructure.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- On October 11, 2006, the U.S. Treasury Department released figures showing that the federal budget deficit has been reduced to \$248 billion, cutting it in half three years ahead of schedule. Since Congress passed pro-growth tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, more than 6 million jobs have been created, and this robust economic activity has generated historic revenue growth and decreased the deficit.
- In November, Congress will continue work to extend critical tax relief that is set to expire, including a research and development tax credit; deductions for tuition to help students and families afford college; and deductions for state and local taxes, as well as a permanent reduction in the estate tax. The U.S. Senate attempted to pass **H.R. 5970, the Estate Tax and Extension of Tax Relief Act** on August 3, 2006, but it was blocked by partisan obstruction.

EDUCATION/COMPETITIVENESS

- On September 30, 2006, the U.S. Senate approved **H.R. 6138, the Third Higher Education Extension Act of 2006**, to allow students to continue to receive vital financial aid for college while Congress completes its work on reauthorizing the **Higher Education Act**.
- On September 26, 2006, **S. 3936, the National Competitiveness Investment Act**, was introduced to improve America's innovation in the 21st century. It would increase research investment and strengthen educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

HEALTH CARE

- Small business health plans could help more than 1 million uninsured Americans gain access to employer-provided health insurance, but partisan obstruction blocked **S. 1955, the Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act** when it was considered on May 11, 2006. Senate and House leadership continue to work to enact this important legislation.



U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (CO) meets with Colorado attendee Clarissa Arellano Malca during the Welcome Reception.

Congressional Welcome Reception Hosts 16 U.S. Senators and Summit Attendees



Georgia participants meet with U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (GA).



U.S. Senator Trent Lott (MS) chats with Mississippi attendee Jermaine Brown.



U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (WY) welcomes Wyoming attendees.



U.S. Senator Craig Thomas (WY) confers with Wyoming attendee Jeff Schulz.



U.S. Senator Kit Bond (MO) greets attendees from Missouri.



U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss (GA) visits with Georgians Dan Israel and Joshua D. Shorr, Esq.



U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch (UT) speaks with Samuel and Jennifer Chiara.



U.S. Senator Tom Coburn, M.D. (OK) meets with fellow Oklahomans.



U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK) talks with Alaskan Angelina Burney.

Summit Participants Detail Top Legislative Priorities and Policy Suggestions

Thank you to the attendees who completed the Summit evaluation and policy questionnaire. This feedback is useful for future Summits as well as action that Congress is considering taking on legislative issues.



Attendees consult with Stig Leschly, President and Managing Partner of SRL Capital Management LLC, after he spoke during the Competitiveness session.

Based on evaluations to date, the top five issues of importance to Summit attendees are:

1. Defense/War on Terror
2. Homeland Security/Border Security
3. Economic Growth/Job Creation
4. Education Improvements/Competitiveness
5. Health Care Access/Affordability

Attendee Suggestions for Addressing Priority Issues

- “Commit to rebuilding the size of the military to pre-1991 levels so our nation is capable of meeting all the international threats we face today.”
- “Give the President the tools to go after terrorists and prevent attacks.”
- “Stop aid to all foreign countries that harbor terrorists. Why are we still giving money to countries that breed hate?”
- “Enforce and protect the border and our guards and continue funding homeland security. Do not grant amnesty to those who are not here legally.”
- “Change immigration from familial based to merit-based (IQ, education level, special skills, wealth, success).”
- “Lower the national debt because lower debt equates to lower interest rates, resulting in smaller payments for both personal and business loans.”
- “Continue efforts to pursue the flat tax and move away from automatic withholding so people are more aware of the amount they pay in taxes.”
- “Continue to focus on alternative fuels even if the gas price drops.”
- “Go upstream to our preschools, Head Start programs, and child care centers to help every child start school ready to learn and succeed.”
- “Volunteerism should be implemented in schools, not just as an option, but [as] an elective toward college credits.”
- “Support and promote a reward system for healthy lifestyles and preventive health care.”
- “Reduce regulation and litigation; require at least some payment from patients to ensure people have incentives to save money. Have patients more involved in decisions.”



U.S. Senator John Sununu (NH) listens to a question from the audience during the Economic Growth session.



At Early Registration, participants mingle and discuss issues during the Networking Coffee.



U.S. Senator David Vitter (LA) meets with Louisiana attendees during the Welcome Reception. With 20 registrants, Louisiana had the second largest delegation at the Summit.

Issue Sessions Allow Young Professionals to Discuss Financial Security, Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship, Volunteerism, and Health Care



U.S. Senator John Thune (SD) addresses attendees during the Small Business Development and Volunteerism panel.



U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) thanks Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Administrator Dr. Mark McClellan.



William Taylor, Co-Founder and Founding Editor of Fast Company magazine, and Rosie Mauk, Former Director of AmeriCorps, field questions regarding building and serving successful communities.



U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (TN) answers a participant's question on education during the Competitiveness session.

ACTION PLAN FOR STATE OR LOCAL SUMMITS

Many attendees expressed a desire to network after the Summit. The registration list included in the Summit notebook features contact information for participants who agreed to have their information published. In addition, below is a sample checklist to assist in executing plans for a state or regional meeting to build on policy discussions.

PLANNING

- ☐ Identify advisors and planning team
- ☐ Develop mission statement and program
- ☐ Prioritize issues and draft agenda
- ☐ Prepare a budget
- ☐ Invite and confirm co-sponsors
- ☐ Finalize funding needs
- ☐ Coordinate marketing and media
- ☐ Reconcile expenses post-event

LOGISTICS

- ☐ Evaluate event location needs
- ☐ Confirm meeting/hotel space
- ☐ Reserve transportation, photographer
- ☐ Finalize set-up, banquet, audio/visual and signage needs
- ☐ Recruit and assign volunteers to staff event
- ☐ Confirm final numbers for seating/food
- ☐ Walk-through layout at event site

PROMOTION

- ☐ Identify sources for invitation lists
- ☐ Compile and finalize mailing lists
- ☐ Send invitations to potential attendees
- ☐ Process registrations and send confirmations
- ☐ Design and order attendee meeting materials
- ☐ Print/assemble issue materials, badges, etc.
- ☐ Organize special event for co-sponsors/VIPs

PROGRAM

- ☐ Identify potential speakers/areas of expertise
- ☐ Coordinate program, panels, workshops, etc.
- ☐ Invite speakers and identify alternates
- ☐ Assign master of ceremonies
- ☐ Confirm speakers/moderators
- ☐ Finalize agenda/timeline for event
- ☐ Prepare introductions, moderator scripts
- ☐ Compile event feedback and follow-up



2006 Senate Leadership Summit for Young Professionals
Participating Co-Sponsors



Additional Information:

<http://hutchison.senate.gov/>
<http://www.senate.gov>
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>
<http://www.dol.gov>
<http://www.ed.gov>
<http://www.hhs.gov>

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov>
<http://www.sba.gov/>
<http://www.commerce.gov>
<http://www.heritage.org>
<http://www.ncpa.org>



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